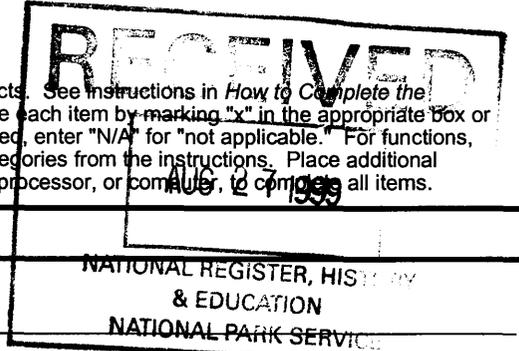


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

1191

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.



1. Name of Property

historic name (Former) Poland Spring Beach House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number South Side of Route 26, 0.1 Mile East of Junction with Skellinger Road ~~N/A~~ Not for publication

city or town South Poland vicinity

state Maine code ME county Androscoggin code 001 zip code 04274

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

James S. Fotheringham 8/23/99
Signature of certifying official/Title SHPO Date

Maine Historic Preservation Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): _____

Edson H. Beall 9/24/99
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

(Former) Poland Spring Beach House
Name of Property

Androscoggin, Maine
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)
 private
 public-local
 public-State
 public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)
 building(s)
 district
 site
 structure
 object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)
Contributing Noncontributing

_____ 1 _____ buildings
_____ sites
_____ structures
_____ objects
_____ 1 _____ Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

_____ N/A _____

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

_____ 0 _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

_____ Recreation & Culture _____

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

_____ Domestic/Single Dwelling _____

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

_____ Late Victorian _____

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation _____ Posts _____

walls _____ Wood/Shingle _____

roof _____ Asphalt _____

other _____ Front Porch and Cupola _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

(Former) Poland Spring Beach House
Name of Property

Androscoggin, Maine
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Entertainment/Recreation

Period of Significance

1909-1949

Significant Dates

1909

c. 1930

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

(Former) Poland Spring Beach House
Name of Property

Androscoggin, Maine
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less Than 1

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	9	3	8	9	8	2	0	4	8	7	6	8	1	0
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Zone Easting Northing

3

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Zone Easting Northing

2

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4

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk F. Mohney, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date June, 1999

street & number 55 Capitol St., 65 State House Station telephone 207/287-2132

city or town Augusta, state Maine zip code 04333-0065

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

(FORMER) POLAND SPRING BEACH HOUSE

ANDROSCOGGIN, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 2

The (Former) Poland Spring Beach House is a long, narrow, rectangular frame building that is comprised of a two-story hip roofed central block crowned by a cupola, one story hip roofed wings, and porches in the center third of each long side elevation. It is clad entirely in wood shingles, and it stands on posts. As originally constructed, the beach house was supported on pontoons over the water, but it was moved to its present land site in the 1930s.

Facing northeast (for the ease of description the front elevation will be referred to as the north elevation) toward Route 26, the building's symmetrically composed facade is dominated by the projecting entrance porch, behind which is the raised central block. The porch is comprised of four posts linked by a scroll sawn balustrade, scroll brackets supporting the projecting cornice (a treatment that is carried around the building), and a Colonial Revival style balustrade across the front and along a portion of the sides of the flat roof. It shelters a central entrance, flanking one-over-one double hung sash windows, and two smaller six-pane windows that originally illuminated interior changing rooms. There are five similar small windows on each of the wings that are placed between a belt course and the fascia. The second story of the central block has a door located at the northeast corner and a diamond shaped shingle pattern in the center of the wall surface (similar patterns appear on the remaining wall surfaces of this block). A slightly battered cupola with horizontally oriented diamond windows and a bell cast pyramidal roof and flag pole surmounts the roof.

The south elevation, which faces Middle Range Pond, is similar in its overall form to the land side, but its porch has been enclosed, and a picture window has been inserted into the wall of each wing. There are also two double hung windows on the second story of the central block instead of a single door. Historic photographs indicate that this fenestration pattern is original. They also show that before and after its relocation to the shore site a broad veranda was located on the water and side elevations. A further exterior alteration was the removal of doors on the end of the wings that opened onto this veranda.

The interior plan and finish, although altered during the 1970s and 1980s, continues to exhibit features of the original configuration. For example, the front door opens into the unaltered vestibule which contains an open string staircase at one corner and openings that frame the hallways which originally bisected the wings. The vestibule walls and ceiling are covered in narrow tongue and groove maple sheathing, a material that is extant on all the other original interior surfaces. Both wings originally had ten changing rooms, five on each side of the hall. Only one of these spaces remains in the west wing and four in the east wing. The partitions which created the others have been removed to make a living room/kitchen area and a bedroom.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

(FORMER) POLAND SPRING BEACH HOUSE

ANDROSCOGGIN, MAINE

Section number 8 Page 2

Constructed in 1909, the (Former) Poland Spring Beach House is a long, narrow rectangular frame building that has a central two-story block and flanking one-story wings. It served the purpose of a lakeside recreation facility for guests of the Poland Spring resort that was located on a hill about one mile to the southeast. The building is eligible for nomination to the National Register under criterion A for its association with the Poland Spring resort and criterion C for its architectural importance as a specialized building type.

[The following paragraph describing the founding and expansion of the Poland Spring House is repeated verbatim from pp. 433-34 of *Maine: The Pine Tree State from Prehistory to the Present* (1995)].

The prominent Poland Spring House in South Poland is a prime example of the large-scale investment in facilities that tourism inspired in Maine. The establishment was founded in 1797 by Jabez Ricker, and under Jabez's son it became the Wentworth Ricker Inn. In 1844, the Ricker family discovered a nearby mineral spring, and in 1856 they began selling barrels of mineral water. Capitalizing on the "curative powers and remarkable purity" of the water, the family built the Poland Spring House in 1876 and promoted the resort as a spa. The hotel complex was enlarged over succeeding years. A lavish blend of Italianate and French Provincial architecture with generous rooms and layers of verandahs, the hotel purveyed to its guests each week during the summer season nearly three thousand pounds of beef, two thousand pounds of lamb, and ten thousand eggs. The Rickers published their own road maps and their own monthly magazine, the *Hill-Top*. At the turn of the century they added the Samoset Hotel at Rockland and the Kineo House on Moosehead Lake to their business holdings.

In addition to the large hotel that was the centerpiece of the resort, the Ricker's built a number of ancillary facilities and moved the Maine State Building to the site in 1895 from the grounds of the Columbian Exposition in Chicago. Extant historic buildings associated with the property include the Maine State Building (NR 7/18/74), All Soul's Chapel (NR 11/17/77), and the Poland Spring Bottling Plant & Spring House (NR 3/22/84). The hotel building itself was destroyed by fire on July 3, 1975.

According to a time-line published in the July 3, 1943, edition of the *Hill-Top*, the beach house (which is also referred to as the bath-house) at Middle Range Pond was constructed in 1909. An article about the amenities at the "Bathing Beach" that appeared in the *Hill-Top* twenty-one years earlier had the following to say about the building:

United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

(FORMER) POLAND SPRING BEACH HOUSE

ANDROSCOGGIN, MAINE

Section number 8 Page 3

A bath-house -- it really is more than that: perhaps clubhouse would be a better name -- is built out into the water. And, although it isn't new, a certain tasteful skill has made such a transformation that it will hardly be recognized by guests of former years. Baskets of ferns, and beds of geraniums, petunias and other bright-hued plants, make banks of color at the entrance. Within are twenty-five lockers, which may be rented by the day or week, with bathing suits if desired; and there also is a cozy little room, suited for bridge or small afternoon teas.

But the feature of this clubhouse is its veranda -- nearly one hundred feet long and built directly over the water. Here there is room for ten card tables, and a more uniquely lovely setting for a bridge party could hardly be imagined.... On the roof of this veranda, and reached by a ladder, are a few card tables exclusively for men -- the only Eve-less spot we know in this Poland Spring Eden!

The Beach House was originally built on pontoons and was moved out a short distance into the lake where it was surrounded by floats. During the 1930s, however, the building was moved permanently to the shore and its present site. It continued to be used for its original purpose until the 1970s, during which time a number of the interior partition walls were removed. Its conversion to a summer residence was undertaken in the early 1980s.

Designed for the specific purpose of housing changing rooms and a small gathering area, the beach house has a distinctive plan and massing. Although it is likely that many of Maine's numerous inland resorts constructed lakeside facilities with similar functions, little is known about their design and present-day existence. Thus, the (Former) Poland Spring Beach House is important not only for its association with the extensive Poland Spring resort, but also as a relatively intact example of a specialized recreational building type.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

(FORMER) POLAND SPRING BEACH HOUSE

ANDROSCOGGIN, MAINE

Section number 9 Page 2

Judd, Richard W., Churchill, Edwin A., and Eastman, Joel W., editors. *Maine: The Pine Tree State from Prehistory to the Present*. Orono, ME: University of Maine Press, 1995.

The Hill-Top. South Poland, ME: Poland Spring House. Editions of July 8, 1922 and July 3, 1943.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

(FORMER) POLAND SPRING BEACH HOUSE

ANDROSCOGGIN, MAINE

Section number 10 Page 2

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property occupies the Town of Poland tax map 6, lot 17.

Boundary Justification

The boundary embraces the lot on which the (Former) Poland Spring Beach House has stood since it was permanently moved to its present lakeside site in the 1930s.